Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the specification by replacing the paragraph beginning at line 8 of page 1 with the following:

A wide variety of medical devices such as catheters and guidewires have been developed. Medical devices such as guidewires can be used in conjunction with devices such as catheters to facilitate navigation through the anatomy of a patient ~~patient~~. Because the anatomy of a patient may be very tortuous, it can be desirable to have particular performance features in an elongate medical device. A number of different structures and assemblies for elongate medical devices such as guidewires are known each having certain advantages and disadvantages. However, there is an ongoing need to provide alternative structures and assemblies.

Please amend the specification by replacing the paragraph beginning at line 7 of page 13 with the following:

A guidewire 100 in accordance with some embodiments can optionally include one or more additional coating layers, for example, coating layer 160. Such a coating layer can be the same or different from the material used to make the polymer sleeve 101 [[10]], and can be disposed over all or part of the guidewire assembly 100. In the embodiment [[show]] shown in Figure 1, the coating layer 160 extends over the proximal section of the core wire 130. In some embodiments, the coating layer 160 may be a hydrophilic, protective, lubricious, or other type of coating to perform a desired purpose. Hydrophobic coatings such as fluoropolymers can provide a dry lubricity which can improve guide wire handling and device exchanges. Lubricious coatings can improve steerability and improve lesion crossing capability. Suitable lubricious polymers are well known in the art and may include examples of hydrophilic polymers such as polyarylene oxides, polyvinylpyrolidones, polyvinylalcohols, hydroxy alkyl cellulosics, algins, saccharides, caprolactones, and the like, and mixtures and combinations thereof. Hydrophilic polymers may be blended among themselves or with formulated amounts of water insoluble compounds (including some polymers) to yield coatings with suitable lubricity, bonding, and solubility. In some embodiments, the more distal portion of the guidewire is coated with a hydrophilic polymer and the more proximal portion 131 is coated 160 with a fluoropolymer, such as polytetrafluroethylene (PTFE).

PAGE 3/12 * RCVD AT 3/14/2006 5:59:13 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-2/0 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:+6123599349 * DURATION (mm-ss):03-48